

**NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**33 Years of Service to Improving Delaware's Quality Of Life**  
**"Preserving Delaware's Natural Areas Today for All Delawareans Tomorrow"**

**NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

December 4, 2012  
Environmental Laboratory  
Richards and Robbins Building  
Dover, DE 19901  
9:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Council Members:**

David Athey, Acting Chair  
Dean Holden  
Edward A. Lewandowski  
Theodore Palmer, Jr.  
Pete Martin  
James White, Jr.

**Guests:**

Andrew Martin

**Staff:**

Rich Phifer, Fish & Wildlife, DNREC  
Eileen Butler, Parks & Recreation, DNREC  
Ron Vickers, Parks & Recreation, DNREC  
Rose Ryödi (support), Parks & Recreation, DNREC

---

**I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions/Announcements**

Mr. Athey, acting Chairperson, called the Natural Areas Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He welcomed Council members and staff and asked for announcements.

**II. Minutes of the September 18, 2012 Meeting**

Mr. Athey asked for a motion to approve minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting minutes, Mr. Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

**III. Old Business**

- *Draft Nature Preserve Management Guidelines*

Ms. Butler reviewed the draft Guidelines, explaining the changes that were made to improve the document. Introductory paragraphs were added to better explain the purpose of the document. Council reviewed and a motion was made to approve the Guidelines. Motion carried.

*White Clay Advisory Council Nature Preserve Dedication*

Ms. Butler attended a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council of White Clay Creek State Park to provide an overview of the State's Natural Areas Program and Nature Preserve dedication process.

Mr. Martin said he visited White Clay Creek State Park last summer and it had the most intense invasive plants he had ever seen in Delaware. He asked whether DNREC had a map highlighting where most infestations were and what the State was doing to control invasive species, overall. Ms. Butler indicated that she would invite Rob Line to provide an update to the Council at the March meeting. Mr. Line manages the Environmental Stewardship Program, responsible for invasive species control for the Division.

#### **IV. Natural Areas Registry**

- *Addition to Red Clay Creek Valley Natural Area*

Ms. Butler informed Council that Staff is moving forward with the Technical Committee to review information that would add specific forestland to the Red Clay Creek Valley Natural Area.

Ms. Butler will return completed information to next council meeting.

#### **V. Nature Preserve Dedications**

- None discussed.

#### **VI. Nature Preserve Management Issues**

- *Update on the management of the Northern View Tract of the Dragon Run Nature Preserve*

In 2004 the owners of "Northern View," a residential development, were required to permanently preserve a majority of the woodlands and marshland in return for an access permit to fill wetlands, as per the Army Corps of Engineers. Subsequently an easement was placed on the woodlands/wetlands and the area was dedicated as the Northern View Tract of the Dragon Run Nature Preserve.

As per the conservation easement, the development company provided \$50,000 to DNREC for management of the Nature Preserve. A land manager had been hired to conduct invasive species removal activities on the property for 2012 and most recently 2013. Ms. Butler provided an overview of the activities from last year and the proposal for removal for 2013.

This discussion, along with a proposed Nature Preserve dedication for portions of White Clay Creek State Park, led to a bigger discussion of invasive species removal in State Parks and for the desire for Rob Line to provide an update to Council.

#### **VII. New Business**

- *Election of Council Officers*

Two members of Council were not present at the meeting, and as such, Mr. Athey advised postponing the vote and put it forward as the first order of business at the March 5, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Holden agreed that it would be appropriate to wait until all Council members were present to vote.

Mr. Palmer suggested forming a nominating committee to come up with a slate of officers.

Mr. Athey and Mr. White agreed to participate in a nominating committee. After discussions with Council members they would produce a slate of Council members for nomination.

#### **VIII. Public Comment and Synopsis Reports From Other Councils, Stakeholders, and Partners**

- Mr. Vickers indicated that he would provide information at the March 5, 2013 meeting on lands that the Open Space Council had purchased which contain natural areas. This will assist the Department in prioritizing future nature preserve dedications.

Mr. White asked if staff had a map that presented existing natural areas and nature preserves. Ms. Butler said the Department has GIS maps that show where natural areas are and that she would provide them at the next meeting. Currently Ms. Butler is crafting a website dedicated to State Nature Preserves.

**IX. 2013 Proposed Meeting Dates**

- Council approved the following dates for 2013 Natural Areas Advisory Council: March 5, June 4, September 17, and December 3.

All meetings will take place in DNREC's Environmental Laboratory, Richards & Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE, starting at 9:00 a.m.

**IX. Adjournment**

- Mr. Athey asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.